# CITY OF MORGANTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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# ANNUAL REPORT

**FOR** 

2014

**Proudly Protecting Lives and Property** 

for the Citizens of Morganton



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#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Morganton Department Public Safety I am honored to present our 2014 Annual Report. We are proud to provide our partners and community members with the opportunity to learn about our agency's work and revisit some important activities from the past year. We hope you find the information to be both informative and beneficial.

Partnership, planning and advancement are three keywords that can be used to characterize the past year. Community Partnerships is the



foundation that leads to the prevention and reduction of crime within our neighborhoods. It is incumbent on all officers especially the leaders within our Department to reach out and build working relationships within our community. We (Public Safety Officers) are not separate and apart from the community we serve. To the contrary, we are a thread woven through the community. A thread which helps to hold our community together, creating a tapestry that reinforces the very fabric that makes up our community.

Our Department also plays an integral role in ensuring the quality of life of our citizens. We must continue to plan and develop strategies to prevent and reduce crime and fire calls. Technology has become a powerful tool that has enabled many improvements within police and fire services. Today, crime and criminals are more networked and more globally connected then they have ever been. It is imperative that we continue to pursue policing and firefighting through proactive and prevention strategies embracing technology. We have come to rely on precise data derived from evolving information technology which helps our officers make quicker, better and more informed decisions in the field.

In the coming year we will continue to explore and consider advancements in policing and firefighting strategies. This will present us with new, innovative and better opportunities to serve the citizens of Morganton. The evolving environment in which we live requires us to remain focused on our work while continually searching to find new ideas and technologies to improve our services.

Our values of Integrity, Professionalism, Honor, Accountability, Respect and Equality guide our decision making as we work to enhance safety and quality of life in the City of Morganton. We are committed to active community involvement, quality training and collaborative partnerships in an effort to provide a safe and stable environment for all of those who live, work, play and visit our community.

The members of the Morganton Department of Public Safety are proud to serve the citizens of our community and are committed to bringing you the highest standard of law enforcement, fire services and customer service. We recognize the budgetary challenges faced by the City and are committed to being good stewards of the taxpayers' money. We strive to be innovative with the deployment of our resources in order to meet our civic and fiscal responsibilities, without sacrificing safety or departmental advancement.

I would like to personally thank you for supporting our department throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Ronnie D. Rector

Director of Public Safety

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# Mission Statement

#### **Our Mission:**

We, the members of the Morganton Department of Public Safety, are committed to protect the lives, property, and Constitutional Rights of all residents and visitors of <u>OUR</u> community by providing professional law enforcement and fire protection services.

#### Our Values:

- Integrity: High ethical standards, honesty and fairness
- Professionalism: Individual excellence, education and training
- Honor: Official dignity, repute, and esteem
- Accountability: To take responsibility for all actions and decisions
- **Respect:** Treating others as you would like to be treated
- **Equality:** Fair, impartial, and equitable treatment of all people

#### **Our Vision:**

The Morganton Department of Public Safety strives to be a leader in the delivery of public safety services which combines law enforcement and fire protection. Our employees strive to be leaders in <u>OUR</u> community in name and deed conducting themselves in a manner to which others will aspire.

#### **Retirements and Memorials**

The Morganton Department of Public Safety proudly recognizes the retirement of the following employees in 2014. Upon their retirement the City of Morganton and the Department of Public Safety offer our sincere appreciation for dedicated and exemplary service:



Chief R. Mark Tolbert Effective January 1, 2014 31 years of service

Captain Bryan Christy Effective December 1, 2014 18 years of service





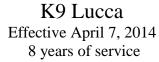
PSO Johnny Cooper Effective July 1, 2014 14 years of service

Vickie R. Farish Administrative Specialist Effective August 1, 2014 14 years of service





PSO Anne Vue Effective March 1, 2014 10 years of service





#### **In Memory**

# Frank Wesley Braswell, Sr. Aug. 21, 1946 to Dec. 27, 2014

Frank Wesley Braswell, Sr., 68, of Connelly Springs, NC died Saturday, December 27, 2014. Born August 21, 1946 in Burke County, NC, son of the late William Wesley Braswell, Jr. and Frankie Ola Benfield Braswell. Frank retired as a Fire Engineer for the City of Morganton Department of Public Safety on January 1, 2013. He was a member and past Chief of the Burke County Rescue Squad, and an original member of the Burke County Search and Rescue Team. Frank was a paramedic, and a certified rescue diver. He was a retired employee of Drexel-Heritage Furnishings and was a former member and past President of the Morganton Optimist Club. He was a loving and devoted son, husband, father, brother, grandfather, uncle, and all around family man. He was a valued friend and mentor to many people.

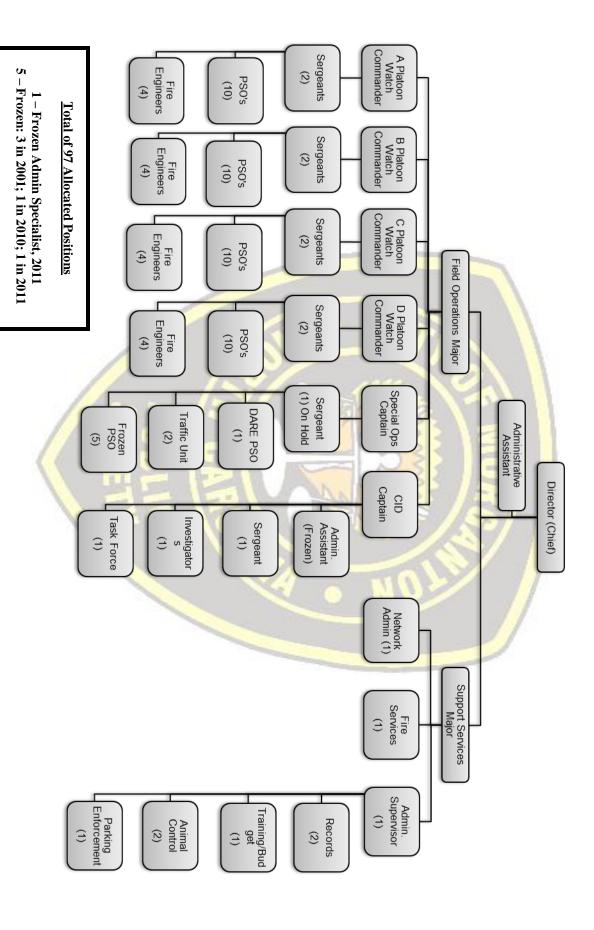


# **Department Personnel Allocations**

#### January 2015

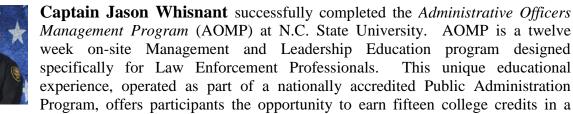
<b>Department Position</b>	<b>Allocate</b>	Assigned	<b>Frozen</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
Public Safety Chief	*1	*1		
Major	*2	*2		
Captain	*6	*5		*1
Sergeant	*10	*10		
PSO	*51	*44	*5	*2
Engineers	16	16		
Fire Captain	1	1		
Admin Supervisor	1	1		
Admin Manager	1	1		
Admin Specialist	2	1	1	
Network Admin	1	1		
Customer Serv Rep	2	1		1
Parking Enforcement	1	1		
Animal Control	2	2		
Total Sworn*	*70	*62	*5	*3
Total Civilian	27	25	1	1
GRAND TOTAL	<b>97</b>	<b>87</b>	6	4

# Morganton Department of Public Safety



#### **Highlights & Accomplishments**

- ❖ The following promotions took place in 2014:
  - Major Ronnie Rector promoted to Chief of Public Safety
  - **Captain Mark Bradshaw** to Major/Field Operations
  - Sergeant Jason Whisnant promoted to Captain
  - PSO Timothy Corriveau to Sergeant



rigorous program, at a cost that makes it one of the most affordable programs of its kind in the country. AOMP is a continuing education activity of the Public Safety Leadership Initiative (PSLI) in the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS) at North Carolina State University.

- ❖ The following personnel were recognized for their accomplishments with awards during 2014:
  - Sergeant Mike Ferraro, Distinguished Service Citation for Valor
  - PSO Christopher Clark, Meritorious Service Citation
  - Sergeant Gary Massey, Life Saving Citation
  - **PSO Marty Coward**, Life Saving Citation
  - PSO Michael Gate, Life Saving Citation
  - Fire Engineer Pete Aldridge, Life Saving Citation
  - PSO Jeff Gillstrap, NC Forensic Test for Alcohol Branch Drug Recognition Expert of the Year
  - Support Supervisor Jason Smith, Governors Award for Volunteer Service

#### ❖ Boards & Committees;

- Chief Ronnie Rector − Burke County Homeland Security Taskforce, Burke County Domestic Violence Task Force, Burke Substance Abuse Network, Burke County Communication Technical Advisory Board, Burke County Narcotics Task Force Board of Directors, Downtown Parking Committee, HMF Inc. Board of Directors ex-officio member, member of Advisory Board for Public Safety Leadership Initiative for N.C. State University
- Major Billy Bradshaw N.C. Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission Speed Measuring Instrument Committee as well as the N.C. Governors Highway Safety Coordinator for Burke County
- Major Mark Bradshaw New Dimensions Charter School Boardmember
- **♥ Captain Joe Blumetti** Burke County Crimestoppers, Big Brothers & Big Sisters
- Sergeant (Inv.) Keith Bowman Burke Substance Abuse Network and N.C. Coalition Initiative
- Sergeant Tico Moss Morganton Human Relations Commission
- Renee Carswell Burke County Crimestoppers, Secretary
- ❖ In 2014 Public Safety received and implemented the following grants:
  - Governors Highway Safety Program Traffic Unit Grant
    - ➤ Provided funding for a traffic unit to include personnel (2 traffic officers for 2 years), equipment and training; total value over \$113,000
  - Governors Crime Commission UTV Grant
    - Purchased an electric vehicle for use on Greenway and during festivals at a cost of \$13,500
  - Governors Crime Commission Telephone/radio Recorder Grant
    - ➤ Replaced our antiquated telephone/radio recording system at a cost of \$14,600
- ❖ Fire Prevention efforts include presentations to more than 1,500 citizens at 26 different events throughout the year. Events were held at local elementary schools, recreation center and public events and included information on fire prevention and life safety.



Public Safety firefighters presenting Fire Safety to area children

- ❖ Public Safety's handheld duty weapons were over 15 years old and in need of replacing. We were able to take advantage of special pricing as well as a trade-in offer and replace all 90 handguns department-wide in 2014 at a savings of \$35,000.
- ❖ Public Safety conducted a total of 55 traffic checkpoints during 2014 at various locations throughout the city resulting in 617 charges.
- ❖ Public Safety's newest fire apparatus, QUINT1, was placed into service in April of 2014. This apparatus was designated QUINT1 because it provides for five separate functions; pumps, water tank, hose, ariel device and ground ladders.



Since placing QUINT1 into service it has become a crucial tool in our firefighting operations

#### **Part 1 Crimes**

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) guidelines track eight "Index Crimes," known also as Part 1 crimes. The UCR system includes crimes that are most likely to be reported to the police and to occur with sufficient frequency to provide an adequate basis for comparison. Part 1 crimes are further split into two categories, **Violent** and **Property**. Below is analysis of Part 1 crimes reported to Public Safety (*The below percentage change is a comparison of 2103 to 2104*):

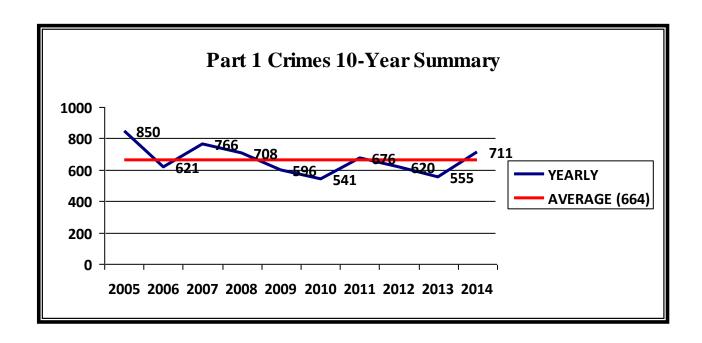
Violent Crimes	2011	2012	2013	2014	% Change
Murder	0	1	0	3	300%
Forcible Rape	5	3	8	6	-25%
Robbery	6	17	21	11	-48%
Aggravated Assault	31	32	23	47	51%
TOTAL	42	53	52	67	22%

<b>Property Crimes</b>	2011	2012	2013	2014	% Change
Burglary	144	172	133	149	11%
Larceny	461	374	351	466	25%
MV Theft	29	19	18	18	0%
Arson	0	2	1	11	91%
TOTAL	634	567	503	644	22%

	2014 Part 1 Summary												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Rape	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	6
Robbery	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	3	1	0	2	11
Assaults	3	0	3	4	6	2	7	8	4	3	4	3	47
Burglary	10	12	7	11	11	12	15	19	12	17	11	12	149
Larceny	24	38	27	22	38	31	59	50	37	49	42	49	466
MV Theft	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	0	4	18
Arson	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	1	0	11
TOTAL	37	52	39	39	59	47	84	83	67	73	58	71	711

**Part 1 Crimes Continued** 

	10-YEAR SUMMARY											
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		
Murder	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3		
Rape	6	6	3	2	3	4	5	3	8	6		
Robbery	14	15	18	12	12	12	6	17	21	11		
Assaults	56	46	51	43	31	25	31	32	23	47		
Burglary	163	132	179	208	139	127	144	172	133	149		
Larceny	573	400	477	420	390	357	461	374	351	466		
MV Theft	37	17	33	23	19	13	29	19	18	18		
Arson	0	4	3	0	2	3	0	2	1	11		
TOTAL	850	621	766	708	596	541	676	620	555	711		



# **Part 1 Crimes Continued**

	2014 PART 1 CRIME ARRESTS												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Robbery	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
Assaults	2	0	3	4	5	2	2	3	3	1	3	2	30
Burglary	2	3	4	0	1	1	6	5	2	2	7	1	34
Larceny	28	24	22	26	18	17	33	28	20	27	34	41	318
MV Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Arson	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	32	29	31	30	25	21	42	38	27	30	44	45	396

<b>Part 1 Crimes Arrests</b>	2011	2012	2013	2014	% Change
Murder	0	1	0	3	300%
Forcible Rape	4	0	2	2	0%
Robbery	9	14	10	5	-50%
Aggravated Assault	43	36	33	30	-9%
Burglary	64	33	45	34	-24%
Larceny	290	246	259	318	19%
MV Theft	5	3	4	1	-75%
Arson	1	0	2	3	33%
TOTAL	416	333	358	396	10%

The above percentage change is a comparison of 2103 to 2104

#### **Calls For Service**

2014 Top-10 Calls For Service

Calls For Service (125 categories)	2011	2012	2013	2014
Vehicle Stop	8,862	8,743	6,579	7,905
911 Hang-up	597	911	797	2,218
Alarm Activation	1,408	1,279	1,424	1,568
Suspicious Vehicle	1,004	850	996	1,206
Suspicious Person	1,073	982	967	1,124
Property Damage	1,005	1,001	1,098	1,079
Speak to Officer	737	783	713	1,054
Security Check	164	169	822	996
Warrant Service	1,046	923	1,024	980
Extra Patrol	181	274	486	888
All other calls for service	9,250	8,980	9,580	12,434
TOTAL	25,327	24,895	24,486	31,452

- The total *Calls For Service* have increased 20% from four years ago
- Public Safety responded to an average of 86 *Calls For Service* each day in 2014 utilizing 15 personnel per 12-hour shift



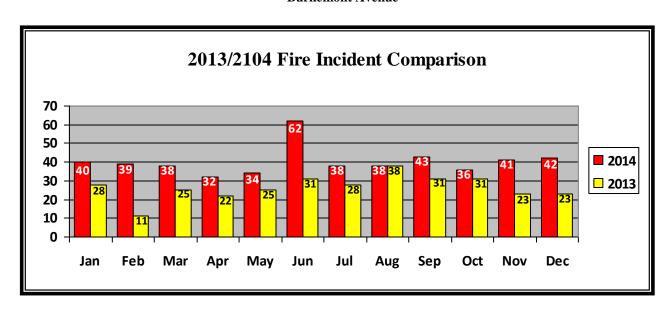
PSO Chris Clark escorting Subject to Magistrates Office after arrest

#### **Fire Statistics**

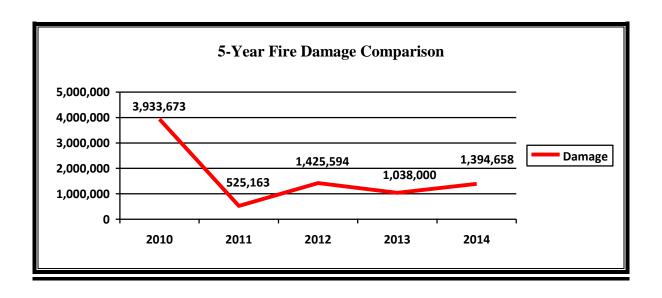
MAJOR INCIDENT FIRE RESPONSE													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Number of Calls	40	39	38	32	34	62	38	38	43	36	41	42	483
Property Damage	\$16,300	\$5,050	\$4,000	\$608,758	\$22,650	\$146,000	\$5,530	\$5,550	\$172,000	\$75,700	\$322,620	\$10,500	\$1,394,658
Man Hours Spent	147:32	175:02	127:21	928:31	198:45	211:46	104:02	138:43	273:36	218:29	329:20	137:19	2,900:26



Engine 1 is one of 4 first responding trucks and is housed at Fire Station 3 on Burkemont Avenue



## **Fire Statistics Continued**





Public Safety personnel fighting residential fire at a home on North Green Street

# **Traffic Analysis Continued**

5-YEAR SUMMARY – TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS										
2010 2011 2012 2013 2014										
Accidents Reported	1,031	1,002	1,080	1,142	1,027					
Number Injured	289	261	263	346	252					
Fatalities	1	1	3	0	2					
Acc. Arrests/Citations         519         503         533         595         655										
Property Damage	\$2,646,646	\$2,821,363	\$2,737,624	\$3,136,890	\$2,932,099					

5-Year Summary – DWI Arrests, Citations										
	2010 2011 2012 2013 2014									
DWI Arrests	241	265	299	283	249					
Traffic Citations	3,490	4,358	4,384	3,342	4,677					



Public Safety patrol vehicle, utilizing the latest equipment in traffic enforcement

## **Traffic Analysis**

A grant from the *Governors Highway Safety Program* funded a 2-person Traffic Unit, below is analysis of their activity:

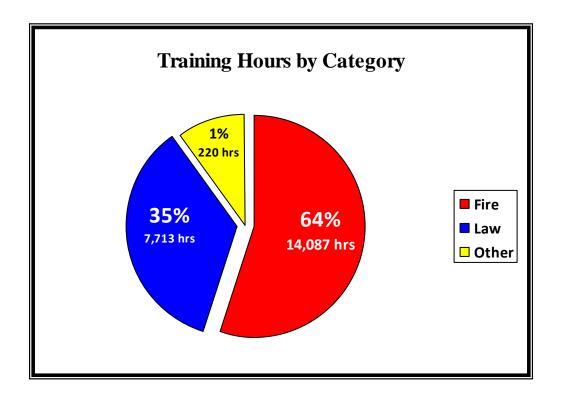
2014 Traffic Unit Data	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
DWI	7	5	6	12	8	7	10	3	8	2	3	4	75
Seat Belt	32	41	32	24	24	18	20	11	7	0	0	6	215
Child Restraint	3	3	3	4	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	19
Speed	33	68	39	39	13	19	73	29	29	16	24	53	435
Driving While License Revoked	8	23	5	17	10	16	13	3	6	2	5	23	131
No Operators License	10	26	27	37	11	15	21	8	18	6	5	34	218
Motorcycle Permit	1	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	7
Helmet Violations	1	2	3	7	3	5	3	0	0	2	1	0	27
Other Violations	30	64	73	57	38	40	69	31	39	17	30	80	568
Warning Citations	12	36	26	19	11	21	18	7	15	11	18	26	220
Total Traffic Offenses	138	269	216	216	124	140	234	92	122	56	88	226	1,921
Total Drug Charges	12	8	6	6	4	4	15	4	11	3	7	8	88
Total Criminal Charges	21	11	15	11	5	7	17	10	16	6	10	6	135
Total Charges	159	280	231	227	129	147	251	102	138	62	98	240	2,064
DWI Checking Stations	1	2	3	3	1	1	3	0	3	1	0	2	20
Seat Belt Initiatives	4	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	12
License Checks	1	4	3	6	6	5	9	4	8	1	1	7	55
Total Number of Traffic Stops	162	266	196	205	141	146	191	122	159	39	65	196	1,888
Fugitives Arrested	3	6	5	11	3	2	9	4	4	1	5	7	60
Injury Crashes	7	4	7	2	3	1	6	6	3	2	1	2	44
PD Crashes	17	12	10	20	20	18	18	10	7	5	15	19	171
Total Crashes	24	16	17	22	23	19	24	16	10	7	16	21	215
Public Info Presentations	0	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	4	0	0	0	15
Public Info Displays	0	0	1	2	3	1	2	0	4	6	0	6	25
Number of Public Reached	0	25	105	145	894	100	170	500	1,600	500	0	1,390	5,429



Governors Highway
Safety Program
Multi-Agency
checkpoint on U.S.
Hwy 70.

#### **Training**

Public Safety provides police and fire services for the city and as such we are required to maintain training standards for both disciplines. Below is a summary:



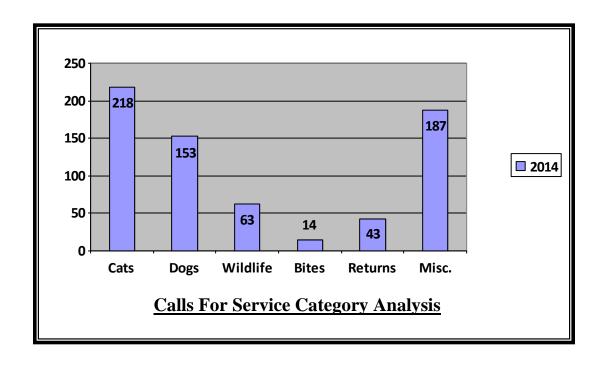
- Total combined police-related training was 7,713 hours, resulting in each sworn officer (66) averaging 117 hours of training for the year
- Total combined fire-related training was 14,087 hours, resulting in each firefighter (90) averaging 157 hours of training for the year
- Pight personnel attended the WPCC Fire Academy at 520 hours each

## Parking Enf. & Animal Control

Parking Enforcement					
	2013	2014			
Tickets Revenues	595 \$4,365	460 \$12,417			
Parking Permits Queen Street Lot Green Street Lot Residential	\$666 \$1,776 \$0	\$1,080 \$3,744 \$25			

Animal Control						
	2013	2014				
Calls for Service		678				
Citations Issued	17	66				

NOTE: 2014 was first year we were able to track Animal Control Calls For Service



#### **Section/Division Highlights**

#### **Canine:**

Our canine program is comprised of four handlers assigned to four canines, PSO Felicia Ennis assigned canine Kimo, PSO Stacey Huffman assigned canine Shrek, PSO Brian Thompson assigned canine Maxo, and PSO Aaron Palmer assigned canine Fred. One Canine Unit (a handler and their canine) is assigned to each of our four platoons. Canine Units are responsible for apprehension of



fleeing suspects, article searches, i.e., looking for items suspects may have thrown down during a chase, tracking suspects or missing persons, building searches, and narcotics detection. Furthermore, they conduct demonstrations in the community and assist surrounding agencies.

- In April 2014, after more than 200 hours of training, Public Safety Officers Felicia Ennis and Stacey Huffman were selected as the newest members of the department's canine program. PSO Ennis (left) was assigned canine Kimo and PSO Huffman (right) was assigned canine Shrek. Both are the first females to be selected as Canine Officers.
- All four canines recertified through the *North American Police Working Dog Association*
- A new kennel was purchased and placed at MDPS HQ
- The canine division was granted at no charge a ballistic canine vest for canine Shrek through *Vested Interest for K9's*, for a savings of \$925

#### **Drug Enforcement:**

Public Safety is a member of the *Burke County Narcotics Task Force*, whose mission is drug interdiction and enforcement. Below is a summary of activity for 2014:

- Initiated 325 cases, resulting in 111 arrests and 139 indictments
- Seizures include \$66,031 in cash, 23 weapons, 5 vehicles and over \$182,000 in narcotics
- The following are amounts for the major drug categories that were seized:

o Cocaine: 45 grams

Crack: 621 dosage units
 Marijuana: 6,458 grams
 Methamphetamines: 311 grams

Oxycodone: 444 dosage unitsHydrocodone: 311 dosage units

#### **Special Emergency Response Team**

Public Safety's Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) is comprised of 10 team members (8 for entry and 2 snipers/observers). The mission for SERT is to handle incidents such as; hostage situations, armed/unarmed barricaded persons, sniper incidents, aggravated suicide attempts, high-risk building searches, high-risk search and/or arrest warrant service, crowd control and other potentially life threatening occurrences which exceed the routine response of on-duty Public Safety personnel. The ultimate goal of the MDPS SERT team is the safety and freedom of individuals affected directly or indirectly responding to and resolving these types of incidents. Selection of this team is as follow: one year of law enforcement experience, demonstrated ability to conduct oneself calmly and effectively under stressful situations, have a minimum qualifying score of 94% with each assigned duty weapon, no disciplinary action in the past 2 years, display initiative, job interest and obligation to the public safety profession, officer's compatibility with current members of the SERT team, be in good physical condition and pass the rigorous physical fitness test, and final approval is from the Chief of Public Safety.

Below are highlights from Public Safety's Special Emergency Response Team (SERT):

-16 call-outs to include stand-offs, executing high-risk warrants as well as assisting the Burke County Narcotics Task Force and Burke County Sheriff's Office

- -Retirement include Sgt. Mike Ferraro who served for 15 years and Sgt Brad Buchanan who served for 10 years
- Our newest member is PSO Felicia Ennis
- Tactical Medic Josh Angley graduated Basic Law Enforcement Training
- Team members Ryan Stotts and Kyle Goforth completed the SWAT Operator 2 course
- Sgt Keith Bowman obtained his Tactical Certificate (500 hours) through the N.C. Justice Academy, he further was awarded his 10-years SERT service pin and named Team Leader

#### **Special Operations**

In June 2014 the "Coffee with a Cop" program implemented and provided an opportunity for members of our community to sit down and have coffee with a Public Safety Officer and ask questions, providing a better bond through understanding what our mission is.



The "Blue Elves" program provided outreach to local families in partnership with the Morganton Housing Authority by providing toys for children 0-15 years of age in the month of December. The "Blue Elves: served 290 low-income at-risk youth



- In 2014 the Drug Awareness and Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program was taught to 189 fifth grade students in Morganton schools
- A total of 62 children attended our week-long "Operation Safe Haven" summer camp provided FREE of charge to graduating fifth graders who completed the D.A.R.E. program thanks to funding provided by both the city and donations from private individuals and businesses. Activities included:
  - Team building activities with local fire and law enforcement professionals
  - Games, go-carts and laser tag at Fun Depot in Asheville
  - Movie at Marquee Cinemas
  - Tour of NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte
  - Swimming
  - Discovery Place
  - Carowinds
  - Community Service Projects, i.e., repainting parking lines, visits with nursing and retirement centers, painting and install of mile marker posts on Greenway.
  - Meals & Transport for the entire week.
  - Awards Banquet which included a meal for their families (approx. 150 attendees)

